

S/N 11/550181

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inhibitor and meglumine antimonite among others. US' 594 does not teach a composition comprising ACE inhibitor and meglumine (not its salt like antimonite) as in present invention neither does it teach the defined ratio of the two components as in the present invention. There is no indication as to presence of both the components in one composition in US' 594.

In contrast, the present invention provides a stabilized composition comprising ACE inhibitor and meglumine that has the advantage of reducing the degradation of the ACE inhibitor. In the present invention meglumine alone, and not its salt, is used as a stabilizer as mentioned in paragraph 0027 of the present application as published. On the contrary, in '594 meglumine antimonite is used as an antiprotozoan. It does not require another active agent to be present in the composition. The teaching of US'594 is directed to formation of the drug delivery system comprising the surfactant and any desired drug. The mere disclosure that such a system may contain ACE inhibitor or meglumine antimonite (and not meglumine alone which is distinct from the salt) cannot render obvious the present invention, which achieves a stabilized composition of ACE inhibitor with the presence of meglumine as stabilizer. Accordingly, the product claims 1 to 18 and process claims 19 to 22 enjoy unity of invention by virtue of a shared special technical feature, namely the combination of ACE inhibitor and meglumine.

In any event, if the product claims are found allowable during the prosecution, the process claims that track allowable product claims should be considered for rejoinder.

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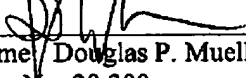
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An early and favorable action on the merits is requested. Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-3478.

Respectfully submitted,

Hamre, Schumann,
Mueller & Larson, P.C.
P.O. Box 2902
Minneapolis, MN 55402-0902
Phone: 612-455-3800

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By 
Name: Douglas P. Mueller
Reg. No. 30,300
Customer No. 52835